

Downeast Region Management Plan



Schoodic Mountain from Partridge Peninsula Campsite
Tunk Lake-Donnell Pond Unit

Final Draft

Revised November 29, 2006

**Maine Department of Conservation
Bureau of Parks and Lands**



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I. Executive Summary

This is a ten-year Management Plan for Public Reserved Land properties in the Downeast Region of Maine managed by the Bureau of Parks and Lands (the Bureau). The properties include the Donnell Pond, Rocky Lake, and Cutler Coast Units, along with the Great Heath; and public lots in Osborn Plantation, T24 MD, Number 14 Township, Number 21 Township, and Marion Township (see map following)

This Plan meets the statutory requirements for development of multiple-use management plans in Title 12 MRSA § 1847 (2), and is prepared in accordance with guidelines described in the *Integrated Resource Policy* adopted in December 2000. These laws and policies direct the Bureau to identify and protect important natural, ecological, and historic attributes; enhance important fisheries and wildlife habitat; provide opportunities for a variety of quality outdoor recreation experiences; and maintain a sustained yield of forest products by utilizing forest management techniques and silvicultural practices that enhance the forest environment.

The Plan is a commitment to the public that these lands will be managed in accordance with the Bureau's mission and goals as stated in the *Integrated Resource Policy*, and within its prescribed mandates. This Plan also serves as guidance to Bureau staff by providing management recommendations, along with a degree of flexibility in achieving the stated objectives.

The Plan includes summaries of resources, issues, and management recommendations for each Unit or parcel, and provides information about the broader geographic region as context. This document is not, however, a plan of operations.

The planning process included broad interdisciplinary and public review, and the resulting document reflects consideration of comments and input received.

The Plan is applicable for the next ten-year period. After that time, a review and update of the information and management objectives will be conducted. The Bureau recognizes that some resources and management issues will undergo change over time, and several of the stated objectives will require longer than the ten-year Plan period to achieve. Future revisions to the Plan, should they be necessary, will occur only after consultation with the Downeast Region Advisory Committee and opportunity for public comment.

The Bureau acknowledges the helpful participation of the Downeast Region Advisory Committee (listed in Appendix D) and members of the public who contributed to the process. Continued public interest and participation will be necessary to achieve the management objectives outlined in the Plan.

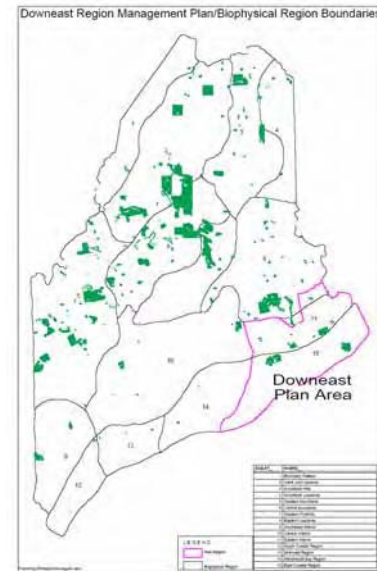


II. Components of the Resource Management System

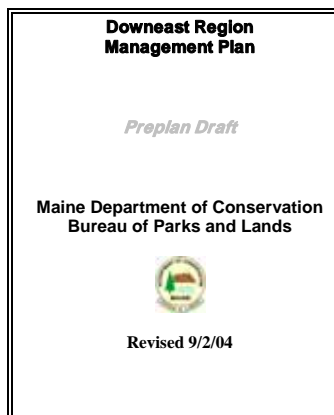
Summary of the Planning Process

The Bureau of Parks and Lands is required by statute to develop management plans for all Reserved and Non-reserved Land properties across the state. The criteria, planning methodologies, and resource management policies described in the Bureau's *Integrated Resource Policy* provided the necessary guidance towards the development of the Plan.

For the Bureau's relatively large and expanding landbase, management planning is now conducted on a regional basis. The selection of properties to be included in a regional plan is based on geographic proximity, relation to certain cultural regions of the state, and placement within certain resource-related criteria. The parcels in this Plan area are largely within the Downeast (or "Down East") portion of, which includes much of the coastal and coastal interior portions of both Hancock and Washington Counties. These properties also fall within the East Coastal and Eastern Interior "biophysical" regions (pictured right), used to distinguish areas according to natural resource attributes. With minor exceptions, these lands are also within the same Sustainable Harvest Unit (SHU), a geographic grouping of timberlands having similar forest conditions.



The regional planning method also provides opportunities to look at the supply of resources within a broader area, including those owned or managed by others. The relationship between the Bureau lands and the region as a whole is an important consideration in developing the management commitments in this document.



Early in the development of the Downeast Region Plan, Bureau staff conducted a thorough review of the resources and resource issues in the Plan area, a step known as the Preliminary Planning phase. Resource professionals from the Department updated information for all resources on lands managed by the Bureau, including those having natural and geological, historic and cultural, fisheries and wildlife, recreation, and timber and renewable resource significance. Mapping and GIS-related information was also updated as part of this phase. A variety of forums were conducted to determine management issues to be addressed in the Plan. These forums included internal scoping sessions with land management staff, a Public Scoping Session to hear from stakeholders and members of the general public regarding the concerns they wished to have

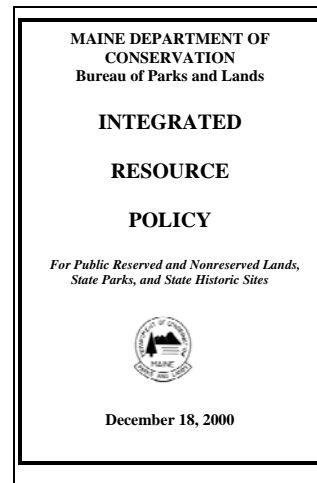
addressed; and local focus groups to address specific concerns. Focus Group meetings were held to discuss the future management of the Route 182 Blackwoods Scenic Byway; to hear concerns regarding motorized trail opportunities on Bureau lands within the Plan area; and to consider a resource allocation proposal by the Northern Forest Alliance. Valuable input was obtained at these meetings, used in further identifying and understanding important management issues, and in formulating the management recommendations in the Plan. After resource inventories and

issues scoping sessions were completed, a Preliminary Plan (preplan) that summarized findings to date was prepared and distributed for public comment.

A Public Advisory Committee was then convened to assist the Bureau in reviewing documents and drafts, and to provide input on variety of plan-related topics. Members were selected on the basis of their resource expertise, and their local and regional knowledge of the lands in the Plan area. A first full draft of the Plan, including management recommendations, was developed after receiving this input, and again distributed for comment. Refinements were made after this review and a final draft then prepared and circulated for discussion at a Public Meeting. Following any final edits resulting from the Public Meeting, the plan was submitted to the Bureau Director and Department Commissioner for adoption.

Summary of the Resource Allocation System

The Resource Allocation System is a land and resource management planning tool first developed in the 1980's and further refined under the current *Integrated Resource Policy* adopted in 2000. The system defines a hierarchy of natural, historic, and cultural resource attributes found on the Bureau-managed lands and prescribes the type of management that will be applied where these attributes exist. Resources are ranked from those that are most sensitive to management activities to those that are less so. For example, a natural, undisturbed landscape may be more appropriately managed for dispersed recreation opportunities rather than developing the same area for intensive day use or camping. Timber management may be considered the "dominant use" in a productive forest area where conflicts with other uses are otherwise minimal. The following is a summary of the Resource Allocation System categories and resource attributes



**INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM**

Multiple Use - Dominant Use - Secondary Uses

SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS

natural areas, historic/cultural areas, ecological reserves

BACKCOUNTRY RECREATION AREAS

non-mechanized and motorized recreation areas

WILDLIFE-DOMINANT AREAS

essential habitat, significant habitat, specialized habitat areas and features

REMOTE RECREATION AREAS

trail corridors, shorelines, areas with dispersed recreation opportunities

VISUAL CONSIDERATION AREAS

foreground and background views

DEVELOPED RECREATION AREAS

facilities that support dispersed recreation, day use, and camping areas

TIMBER MANAGEMENT AREAS

areas actively managed for its timber resources

Plan Monitoring

1) Plan Recommendations. The Bureau routinely develops a schedule for implementing and accomplishing management plan recommendations. These recommendations provide the basis for determining work priorities and program budgets on an annual basis.

2) Easements. The Bureau holds a variety of easements across the state, serving a variety of conservation and recreation purposes. In each case, the landowner continues as fee owner, but certain specific rights and responsibilities, e.g., management of recreation uses, are conveyed to the Bureau. Monitoring protocols normally developed to guide the ongoing management of these easements and will be used to ensure that easement objectives and conditions are being met.

3) Public Use. Prior to the development of this Plan, public use monitoring was conducted to provide information on use patterns on the more frequently visited Units within the Plan area, including the Donnell Pond and the Rocky Lake Units. The Cobscook Trails Coalition also tracks public use for the Cutler Coast Unit. Efforts to further evaluate use and use patterns will be ongoing throughout the Plan period.

4) Post harvest Monitoring. The Bureau has developed a post harvest monitoring plan to assist forest planners and managers in assessing harvest outcomes in comparison to forest management objectives identified during harvest planning. The monitoring plan also addresses and tracks outcomes of water quality and Best Management Practices (BMP's) implemented during harvest activities.

5) Wildlife. The Bureau routinely conducts a variety of species monitoring activities across the state. Within the Plan area, waterfowl brood counts will be conducted and raptor nesting areas monitored. Monitoring of other species will occur as conditions warrant.

6) Ecological Reserves. Ecological Reserves are largely undisturbed areas having ecological significance due to the presence of exemplary (common or uncommon) plant communities. The primary value of these areas is their suitability as benchmarks for ongoing scientific study and research. A contract with the Maine Natural Areas Program has been established to collect baseline data on all designated Ecological Reserves. Baseline data has been completed for the reserves within the Plan area and will be periodically revisited or updated as part of the ongoing reserve monitoring program. A variety of allowed uses within these reserves has also been determined, and is described in the Plan. Monitoring of these activities will take place on an ongoing basis to ensure their compatibility with the ecological attributes being protected and studied.

III. The Downeast (“Down East”) Region of Maine

Regional Context

This section provides a summary of important resources throughout the Downeast Region of Maine. The discussion includes a description of resources on lands other than those managed by the Bureau, but makes no recommendation regarding those lands. The information, however, was important in providing a context for recommended management of Bureau lands.

Tourism within the Downeast-Acadia Region

Many of the lands within the regional plan area are in close proximity to the Route 1 corridor, which provides the primary centers of commerce in Hancock and Washington Counties. The plan area parallels the Down East & Acadia Region, one of eight areas designated by the Maine Office of Tourism for marketing purposes. This region is reported in the 2003-2008 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) as being the third most visited region in the State, the vast majority of those visits occurring in the Bar Harbor/Ellsworth area, home of Acadia National Park. The remaining portion of the region, especially Washington County, is working to find a niche in the tourism industry. There are several on-going and complimentary efforts to “brand” the experiences that the traveling public can expect in different parts of the region through the designation of travel corridors or loops. These efforts include creation of sub-regional committees of local business owners, resource management professionals, conservationists, and residents to properly identify the loops or corridors that can serve the economic and social priorities of their communities. They also include support from the Maine Department of Transportation to map these loops and corridors, link them to similar efforts in adjacent regions and identify infrastructure needs that will ensure that visitors can find their way, enjoy their experience, and support local economies without harming fragile resources. The third effort that is a Governor-sponsored initiative that provides the expertise of a nationally recognized nature-based tourism consultant to the Downeast region (and two other regions in Maine). Finally, the Vacationland Resources Committee of the Down East Resource Conservation and Development district has completed an update to the Down East Sustainable Tourism Initiative (DESTINY) for 2010, which recognizes nature-based tourism as a niche that could benefit Washington County.

The region is host to three Scenic Byway corridors, the Acadia All American Road on Mount Desert Island, the Schoodic National Scenic Byway along the western shore of Frenchman’s Bay and the Blackwoods Scenic Byway along Route 182, connecting the villages of Franklin and Cherryfield along 12.5 miles of forests, ponds, lakes, rocky hills and blueberry barrens. This Byway provides access to the Donnell Pond Unit, and management recommendations for the Byway and the Unit will be closely linked. Scenic Byway designation is accomplished in areas that showcase outstanding historic and cultural, archeological, recreational, natural, and scenic resources. These attributes are well established along the designated byways in the Downeast region, and other transportation corridors, as well.

Many visitors who travel the Downeast region look to avoid the overcrowding they find in the premier destination of Acadia National Park and surrounding development. More dispersed recreation opportunities are provided on Bureau lands in the Downeast region, including a variety of remote experiences, along with opportunities to experience scenic, undeveloped

coastlines. Linked to these experiences are historic villages rich in cultural expressions of past eras and continuing reliance on the sea and land for such delights as lobster dinner and blueberry pie. The Downeast region is considered the “the blueberry capitol of the world,” producing more than 90% of the world’s supply of wild blueberries. Many of the properties considered in this plan are near or within areas where the commercial management of blueberries takes place.

Summary of Natural and Geological Resources within the Region

The Downeast region is characterized by mixed forests and relatively young spruce-fir, with a history of fire, budworm damage, and timber harvesting. The region also supports many of the largest bogs and fens in Maine, including the Great Heath. In particular, coastal bogs like those on the Cutler Coast Unit are restricted to eastern Maine and are among the most ecologically notable wetlands in the state.

Physical Landscape: Geology, Soils, Hydrology, and Wetlands. West of the Great Wass archipelago (Jonesport and Beals), coarse-grained granite dominates the landscape, including the hills around Tunk Lake and Donnell Pond. East of Great Wass Island, including the Cutler Coast and Rocky Lake Units, bedrock is dominated by more erodable, fine-grained volcanic and metamorphic rocks, and weathering of these bedrock types has resulted in a lower, relatively flat terrain. Gabbro, diorite, and volcanic rocks dominate the landscape here.

Except for a broad, elevated peninsula around Tunk Mountain, most of the Downeast region was submerged during the most recent glaciation, when the ocean reached inland through the major river valleys. Consequently, much of the area is underlain by ice-contact glaciofluvial and glaciomarine sediments. Over the last 13,000 years, the coast has taken on its current form due to uplift following glacial retreat.

Maine's “Ice Age” Trail. A recently published map entitled “Maine's Ice Age Trail: Map and Guide” highlights various points throughout Hancock and Washington Counties that illustrate Maine's geologic history. Harold Borns, University of Maine professor emeritus of earth sciences and the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, has developed the scientific aspects of the project, which features a trail visitors can follow through Hancock County and Washington County. By following the trail and stopping at various designated points, all accessible from main roads, one can learn about the Ice Age, climate change in general and the record of the Ice Age in central Maine.

The Pineo Ridge barrens around the Great Heath in Columbia, Cherryfield, Deblois, and T18 MD represent one of the state's largest examples of a glaciomarine delta. This delta is composed of coarse-grained sand and gravel, with poorly drained peats occurring in kettleholes and pockets along the margins of the delta. West of the Pineo Ridge delta, glacial till is the dominant surficial deposit. Further to the east, finer-grained glaciomarine deposits cover much of the lowlands. Ridge tops, rocky headlands, and exposed islands support excessively drained, thin soils where glacial action and subsequent weathering has removed much of the surface material.

Several major rivers cross the Downeast landscape, including the Union, Narraguagus, Pleasant (which bisects the Great Heath), Machias, East Machias (which bisects Rocky Lake), and Dennys. The latter five rivers have been targeted for enhancement and restoration through the state's Atlantic Salmon Conservation Plan. According to National Wetlands Inventory maps,

wetlands account for or nearly one quarter of the Downeast landscape, with nearly half of the inland wetlands forested.

Schoodic Bog (Pictured), The Frenchman Bay Conservancy recently acquired 500 acres along the southern boundary of the Donnell Pond Unit. This parcel contains an important 135-acre bog-wetland complex known as Schoodic Bog, and offers spectacular views of Schoodic Mountain. The property is open to the public, and can be accessed via the Calais Branch trail corridor which passes through it. A parking area for this purpose is available within the Donnell Pond Unit, where the trail intersects the road to Flanders Pond.



Uncommon Natural Communities. Coastal Plateau Bogs are restricted to the Downeast region of Maine, where they reach their southern limit. In these peatlands, like those found in the Great Heath and Cutler Coast Unit, a cool and wet year-round climate create favorable conditions for a high diversity of peat moss (*Sphagnum*) species. The cool climate also enables colonization by boreal plants such as black crowberry (*Empetrum nigrum*) and baked appleberry (*Rubus chamaemorus*), otherwise restricted to alpine and sub-alpine areas in Maine. Numerous "Coastal Headland Ecosystems" occur in the region, including the outcropping on the Cutler Coast Unit. Characteristic plants of these coastal headlands include mountain cranberry (*Vaccinium vitis-idea*) and black crowberry. Some rare or uncommon plants near their southern range limits in this region include marsh-felwort (*Lomatogonium rotatum*), blinks (*Montia fontana*), Hookers's iris (*Iris setosa* v. *canadensis*), bird's eye primrose (*Primula laurentiana*), roseroot (*Sedum rosea*), and baked appleberry. Large tidal marshes are uncommon in the region and virtually absent from Bureau lands, in part because the granitic coastline has not allowed coastal drainages to erode into low, broad embayments. Tidal rivers such as the Narraguagus, Machias, Pleasant, Dennys, and St. Croix support a network of tidal wetlands and extensive tidal flats. Salt marshes are most developed in the Narraguagus Bay/Pleasant Bay estuary. Many of these marshes provide important nesting, feeding, and staging areas for shorebirds and waterfowl, and important nurseries for anadromous fish including the rare shortnosed and Atlantic sturgeon.

Ecological Reserves. Ecological Reserves are largely undisturbed areas having ecological significance due to the presence of exemplary (common or uncommon) plant communities. The primary value of these areas is their suitability as benchmarks for ongoing scientific study and research. The identification of exemplary natural community types within the Plan area led to the designation of 18,367 acres of Ecological Reserves, comprising approximately 41% of the Bureau's landbase in the Downeast Region.

Unit	Ecological Reserve Location	Reserve Acres
Donnell Pond	Black Mt./Caribou Mt.	1,940
Donnell Pond	Spring River Lake/Tunk Mt.	4,010
Great Heath	Great Heath	5,681
Cutler Coast	North Lot	3,145
Cutler Coast	South Lot	2,075
Rocky Lake	East Machias River	1,516
Total		18,367

State lands currently provide the only supply of formally designated ecological reserve lands in the region; however, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) owns 1,500 acres on Great Wass Island in the Town of Beals that is being managed consistent with Reserve principles. In 2005, TNC recently acquired an additional 9,934 acres in the northern portion of T10 SD which abuts the northern boundary of the Bureau's Spring River Lake parcel within the Donnell Pond Unit. This acquisition extends to the Spring River and West Branch of the Narraguagus River in T16 MD. It is the Conservancy's intention to manage this property as an Ecological Reserve and may be deeded to the state at some future time.

Federal lands at Moosehorn and Petit Manan Wildlife Refuges, and certain areas of Acadia National Park have ecological reserve attributes, although they are not being specifically managed for this purpose. Other smaller, privately owned properties with these attributes have been identified throughout the region, as well.

Summary of Historic and Cultural Resources within the Region

The term Downeast or "Down East," has been applied in various ways since the earliest settlements in this part of the state. Its origin is described in *Down East Magazine*:

"When ships sailed from Boston to ports in Maine (which were to the east of Boston), the wind was at their backs, so they were sailing downwind, hence the term 'Down East.' And it follows that when they returned to Boston they were sailing upwind; many Mainers still speak of going 'up to Boston,' despite the fact that the city lies approximately 50 miles to the south of Maine's southern border."

Although there is no general agreement as to its precise meaning beyond its nautical use, it has been defined broadly in geographic terms as the coastal shoreline and environs from Penobscot Bay to the Canadian border. In its narrowest sense, it has applied only to the coastal communities of Washington County. More commonly, it refers to most of the coastal communities. As a cultural region, Downeast Maine encompasses the rural communities of Hancock and Washington counties. Principal Downeast towns include Calais, Eastport, and Machias. Bar Harbor, Blue Hill, and Ellsworth can also be considered Downeast communities.

The region has been home to Native American people for thousands of years. Petroglyphs and archaeological research show that the Machias Bay area, in particular, was the site of significant Native American activity, along with the Meddybemps area near Calais. Native Americans continue to live in the area, most notably the Passamaquoddy communities at Pleasant Point on Passamaquoddy Bay and Indian Township near the St. Croix River.

Early European exploration of North America brought numerous forays to the coast here, most notably by Samuel de Champlain in 1608, with the possibility that Viking exploration of this region took place as early as the 13th century.

During the American Revolution the region was contested between settlers loyal to the British and those loyal to the American cause, as illustrated by British raids and ensuing successful American defenses in the Machias area.

In the last two centuries, the region has been known primarily for its fisheries, timber, agriculture, and recreation resources. Of significance is the wild blueberry industry, considered the largest in the world. Jasper Wyman, a well-known blueberry processor, owned the blueberry

barrens on Bureau lands near Schoodic Nubble in Franklin. A cable operation was set up in the 1950's for transporting the crop from these and adjacent fields to a railroad loading area. At its peak, the field below the mountain produced upwards of 50,000 pounds of blueberries annually.

Summary of Fisheries and Wildlife Resources within the Region

Wildlife. The region in general is home to a well-established and significant number of bald eagles. However, a combination of low soil fertility, fire, and past land uses have resulted in fair to poor habitat quality for wildlife species known to the Downeast region. Most of the species common to Maine can be found here, including black bear, red fox, ruffed grouse, and red squirrel, but in lower numbers than in other parts of the state. Some notable exceptions are island-nesting birds and the bald eagle. Island nesting seabirds such as terns and eiders are thriving, and habitat acquisition efforts spearheaded by the Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge have provided for permanent protection of sensitive habitat.

American woodcock are numerous throughout the region due an abundance of reverting farm fields, extensive wetlands, meadows, and blueberry barrens. Extensive habitat research on the woodcock has been conducted at the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge. This is the only National Wildlife Refuge dedicated to woodcock research.

The Cutler Coast Unit is home to a bluejoint meadow-grassland complex that is unique to the Downeast region of the state, providing habitat for several rare bird species.

Wildlife Resources within the Downeast Region Plan Area

<i>Habitat Type*</i>	<i>Donnell Pond</i>	<i>Rocky Lake</i>	<i>Cutler Coast</i>	<i>Great Heath</i>
Essential	Bald Eagle Nest	Bald Eagle Nest (2)	none	
Significant	Wetlands	Wetlands	Wetlands (uncommon bird species)	Wetlands
	Waterfowl and wading bird hab.	Deer Wintering Area		Waterfowl and wading bird hab.
Specialized	Riparian Areas	Riparian Areas	Riparian Areas	Riparian Areas
		Atl. Salmon River		Atl. Salmon River

*see Glossary, Appendix C

Fisheries. The overarching fisheries concern in the Downeast area is the Atlantic salmon restoration project taking place on seven rivers within the region. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has provided a salmon recovery plan that focuses on riparian management strategies to protect shoreline and upland areas important to the rivers. The Pleasant, Narraguagus, East Machias and Dennys Rivers, and portions of their watersheds, are found on Bureau lands throughout the region. Coordination with ongoing restoration activities conducted by the Atlantic Salmon Commission and other organizations will be an important consideration in the Bureau's wildlife program. Opportunities to conduct in-stream habitat improvements in support of this project will be pursued.



Regional Fisheries and Wildlife Goals. The wildlife habitat goal for managing these properties is to increase the amount of softwood cover, where feasible, to benefit deer. Due primarily due to spruce budworm damage and changes in the forest products market, past timber management has dramatically reduced the spruce/fir stocking throughout the region. Most areas are seeing significant regeneration; however, these areas are still 30 years out from having harvestable size trees. Forest management will be focused on retaining much of the mature softwood while encouraging the growth of the younger softwood.

An equally important goal will be in restoring or protecting upland habitat to support the threatened Atlantic salmon population. The Bureau manages significant shoreline and watershed areas for the Pleasant, Narraguagus, East Machias and Dennys Rivers, and can lead by example in protecting the water quality critical to the salmon.

An additional goal of the wildlife program will be to manage for significant amounts of both multi-age and mature forests, thereby providing a wide range of species habitat across the region.

Summary of Recreational Resources within the Region

The Downeast region provides a wide variety of recreational opportunities ranging from developed state parks to remote recreation areas, and includes both motorized and non-motorized uses.

The region is the eastern terminus of the Maine Island Trail, a 350-mile waterway that extends along the coastline from Portland to Machias (Daniels Island pictured). This nationally recognized water trail offers camping and day use opportunities for small boaters on coastal islands and mainland sites. Forty-two Bureau-owned islands and several state parks are part of this water trail which is stewarded by the Maine Island Trail Association.



The Plan area contains over 600 lakes and ponds, and 3,800 miles of rivers, brooks, and streams, providing a wide variety of fishing opportunities. This resource is important to the quality of life in this region. It is also vital to the tourism base, and is an important part of the \$450 billion sport fishery in Maine.

A number of popular canoe touring routes traverse the rivers and lakes of the region. These include the St. Croix, East Machias, and Machias Rivers.

Opportunities for sea kayaking, sailing, and other water sports also abound along the many miles of coastline. The Maine Water Sports Network began in Washington County to reestablish a lifestyle of reliance on Washington County's water resources with the goal to building a stronger economy and healthier communities. The Maine Water Sports Network seeks to make the region a world leader in providing these opportunities.

The Blackwoods Scenic Byway, a 12.5-mile corridor along Route 182 (pictured in red below), passes between the towns of Franklin and Cherryfield, and through a 6-mile portion of the

Overview of the Blackwoods Scenic Byway

consistent with management objectives for the Donnell Pond Unit.

The Downeast Region is home to five staffed state parks: Cobscook Bay and Lamoine offer overnight camping and day use facilities; Roque Bluffs, Shackford Head, and Quoddy Head are open for day use only. The Cobscook Bay State Park property is part of the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge lands, and is leased to the state. The recently-acquired St. Croix River shoreline provides excellent canoeing and camping opportunities along a 50-mile conservation corridor that includes Spednic Lake to the north, managed by Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The St. Croix International Waterway Commission provides stewardship along the river. A number of undeveloped state park properties and historic sites area also within the region (see table for complete listing of state park properties in the region).

Downeast Region State Parks, Historic Sites & Undeveloped Park Lands
Administered or Managed by the Maine Department of Conservation, Bureau of Parks & Lands, by County
30-Apr-04

Cty	REG	Name	BP&L Interest	Mgmt Agcy	Location	Acres	Major Use
HA	N	Battery Gosselin	Fee	BP&L	Castine	0	historic
HA	N	Branch Lake	Fee	BP&L	Ellsworth	1,273	undeveloped
HA	N	Eden	Ease	BP&L	Bar Harbor	13	open space
HA	N	Fort George	Fee	TOWN	Castine	3	historic
HA	N	Holbrook Island Sanctuary	Fee	BP&L	Brooksville	1,343	trails, nature interp.
HA	N	Lamoine	Fee	BP&L	Lamoine	55	camp, picnic
HA	N	Lamoine Beach	Fee	TOWN	Lamoine	13	swim
HA	N	Tennis Preserve	Fee	BP&L	Deer Isle	148	trails
HA	N	Thrumcap Island	Ease	BP&L	Islesboro	1	open space
HA	N	Tidal Falls	Ease	BP&L	Hancock	4	scenic
WS	N	Eastern Head	Fee	BP&L	Trescott Twp	263	undeveloped
WS	N	Fort O'Brien	Fee	BP&L	Machiasport	6	historic
WS	N	Foster Island	Ease	BP&L	Harrington	400	open space
WS	N	Gaddis Pool	Fee	BP&L	East Machias	2	river access
WS	N	Gleason Point	Fee	TOWN	Perry	100	boat access
WS	N	Goods Point	Fee	BP&L	Steuben	0	undeveloped
WS	N	Pleasant River Lake	Fee	BP&L	Beddington	491	undeveloped
WS	N	Quoddy Head	Fee	BP&L	Lubec	541	trails, picnic, scenic
WS	N	Roque Bluffs	Fee	BP&L	Roque Bluffs	274	swim, picnic
WS	N	Shackford Head	Fee	BP&L	Eastport	87	trails, scenic
WS	N	Spednic/St Croix	Fee	SCIWC	Vanceboro, Dyer, Lamb L, Fowlr	2,040	canoe, camp
		20 Areas				Total Acres	7,057

Key

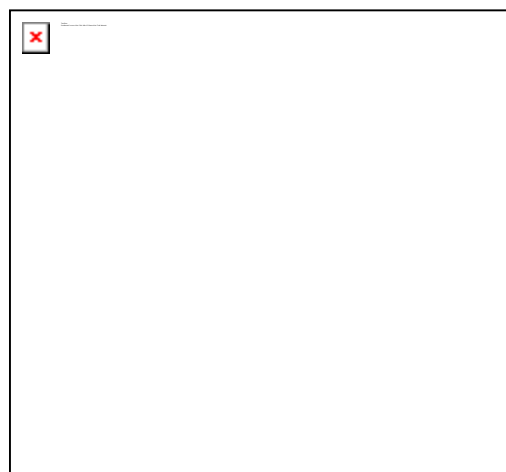
Fee = Acres owned in fee

Eas = Conservation Easement acres

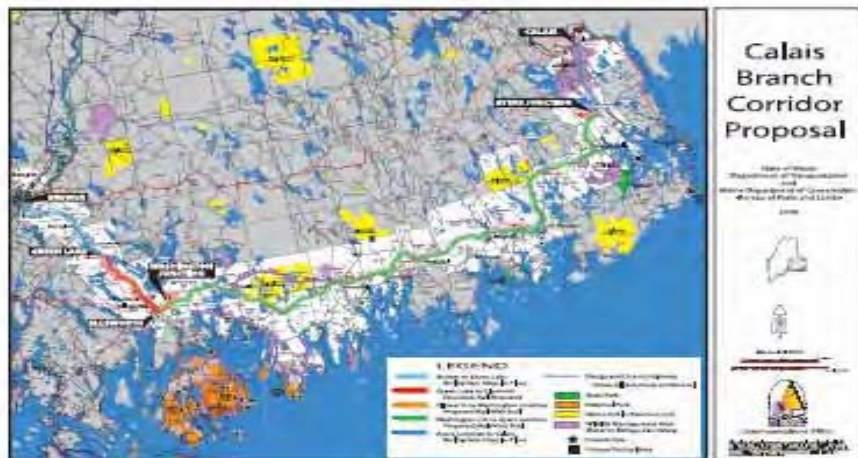
Reg = State Parks Regional Administrative Office (North or South)

There are more than 80,000 acres of federally owned lands within the Downeast-Acadia area, including Acadia National Park (36,000 acres), Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge (28,751 acres), and Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge (3,335) providing a wide variety of recreational opportunities. The Moosehorn NWF also contains 7,392 acres of primarily roadless areas, and is a federally designated wilderness allowing for foot access only. Another 3,125 acres of federal wilderness is proposed for much of the Petit Manan NWR.

The Downeast region is the locus of a designated 700-mile interconnected ATV trail system that extends from Eddington to Calais and from Cutler to Grand Lake Stream. The system was established as a cooperative effort by International Paper Company (now GMO Renewable Resources), Wagner Timberlands, area watershed councils, seven ATV clubs, and other landowners in an effort to organize and control use. The system lies just north of the Donnell Pond Unit and the Great Heath, and crosses the Rocky Lake Unit, and the upland portion of the Cutler Coast Unit. The region has approximately 663 miles of state-supported snowmobile trails, of which 150 miles is within the state's Interconnected Trail System (ITS). The trails overlap the ATV system in a number of locations. The snowmobile trail on the Rocky Lake Unit is the only groomed trail on Bureau lands within the Plan area. Snow conditions throughout the region vary greatly from year to year, limiting trail use



compared with other areas of the state. When snow cover is adequate, the season is typically less than two months.



The Department of Transportations' Calais Branch abandoned railroad from Ellsworth to Ayers Junction in Dennysville (pictured in green) has been approved for development as a multiple use trail, and will support both motorized and non-motorized trail uses, including ATVing, bicycling, and horseback

riding. The corridor passes through the southern portion of the Donnell Pond Unit along with the southeastern corner of the Rocky Lake Unit. The use of the corridor as a means to provide an off road trail connection between communities in Hancock and Washington Counties is expected to provide significant economic benefits to those areas, as well as provide additional trail access opportunities on the state lands along the trail. This corridor, however, is also being preserved for future rail use, should it once again become viable. The Bureau's Off-Road Vehicle Division will provide management oversight for the trail, and work with various trail groups and interested parties to address access needs and issues in a way that meets the goals of the trail corridor and the public lands within the Plan area.



Summary of Timber and Renewable Resources within the Region

The Downeast Region is mostly forested, with a high percentage of land in relatively infertile soils. The Plan area is characterized by mixed forests and relatively young spruce-fir, with a history of fire, budworm damage, and extensive timber harvesting. A comparison of the statewide forest inventory conducted by the Maine and U.S. Forest Services show that Washington County has the lowest net timber growth in the State.

Timberland Volumes (cords) per Acre – BP&L and USDA Forest Service			
	All regulated Acres	Plan Area	
BP&L	19.44 cd/ac	15.76 cd/ac	
	Statewide*	Washington County	
USDA FS	14.54 cd/ac	11.38 cd/ac	

*"Statewide" is limited to the seven northerly "regions" used for the USDA Forest Service inventory, omitting the Capitol and Casco Bay regions. Data is from the 1995 report.

Hancock County has produced better growth, but the lands closer to the seacoast tend toward the more infertile soils. Spruce budworm was cause for heavy mortality among fir and spruce in the 1970s and early 1980s, with salvage harvesting further reducing timber inventories. Except for the smaller lots, most lands within the Plan area were acquired by the State after the budworm

damage had passed. Only a small amount of budworm salvage was conducted under the Bureau's management. However, due to both site quality and history, this area holds lower timber volume per acre than any other region.

Most soils on lands within the plan area are excessively to poorly drained with comparatively little moist and fertile (mesic) land. Exposed boulders abound, complicating access for timber harvesting. As is common with well-drained sites, fire history is extensive and early successional forest types are common. The Bureau's parcels have a greater proportion of this type than anywhere in the state. Although the fertility and timber volumes are lower than on most other Bureau lands, the Downeast forests still hold significant amounts of valuable timber. In the short term, these lands will be supplying local mills with mainly low quality products as management strives to further improve the timber resource. In the long term, high value products will be available as the abundant young and mid-aged trees mature.